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# Weekly Special Report



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Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## USAID Chief Aims to Cut Hunger in Africa Through Economic Growth

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff  
Writer

New York -- The United States will spend more money to spur economic growth and reduce hunger in Africa in 2006, the head of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) says, urging developed and developing countries to mobilize all sectors of their societies to address the issue of world hunger.

At a September 15 panel discussion on ending hunger in Africa, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios said the



United States seeks to help sub-Saharan Africa achieve its food security

goals by helping the region's countries achieve a "sustainable" annual growth rate of 6 percent.

To do that, the administration has requested an increase in its budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1 (FY06) to support agricultural development in Africa, Natsios said.

Achieving sustainable growth is what has helped China reduce

*(Continued on page 2)*

## U.S. Supports Conservation of Historic Castle

On Thursday, September 15, the North Gondar community of Infrac marked the completion of U.S.-funded conservation and structural consolidation at the medieval Guzara Castle, a local landmark whose construction predates that of the better known castles of Gondar. The U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Counselor, Anthony O. Fisher, Cultural Affairs Officer Tina Malone, Public Affairs staff, officials from the Regional Bureau of the Ministry of Youth Culture and Sports, religious and community leaders, elders, and several hundred area residents celebrated work

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## USAID Chief Aims to Cut Hunger in Africa . . .

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its poverty and hunger rates, he said.

His agency strongly supports the Comprehensive Africa Development Program, a joint initiative of the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership on Africa's Development (NEPAD), he said.

The panel at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York was held in conjunction with the 2005 United Nations World Summit September 14-16. (See The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).)

The majority of sub-Saharan Africans live in rural areas where hunger is most acute, Natsios said, adding that the region's population is expected to grow by more than that of any other region of the world by 2015, thus increasing its need for food.

Approximately 200 million people in Africa are chronically hungry, according to NEPAD. By 2011 Africa will account for half of the undernourished people in the world,

according to USAID projections.

USAID's programs will focus on countries that "value" the involvement of their citizens and all donors in developing solutions to end hunger, Natsios said.

USAID's strategy will be to support collective action where private lenders and farmers themselves develop local solutions to persistent hunger and provide mutual accountability for those programs, he said.

In particular, USAID is expanding local alliances devoted to expanding production of grains, cassava, cotton and dairy, he said.

"Broad-based economic growth is critical if Africans are to participate in the new global economy and enjoy higher standards of living," according to USAID.

The agency said its agricultural development assistance is especially directed to countries where food insecurity is greatest and where governments are committed to improving the conditions for increasing growth and reducing pov-

erty.

According to USAID its programs will emphasize these goals:

- to improve the use of modern technologies.
- to expand credit to farmers.
- to strengthen producer associations.
- to improve the functioning of markets
- to enhance economic incentives for farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs.
- to promote diversification of agriculture by the private sector.
- to increase exports.

For additional information on development assistance, see U.S. Aid to Africa ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid\\_to\\_africa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/aid_to_africa.html)).

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## U.S. Supports Conservation of Historic Castle . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

made possible by a grant from the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The Ambassador's Fund was established in 2001 to assist countries around the world in preserving their cultural heritage. In 2002, the Ambassador's Fund supported the implementation of a conservation survey of

Axum's Yeha Temple, the oldest monument in Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2005, the Ambassador's Fund is funding conservation work at the Sheikh Nur Hussein Shrine in Anajina, Oromiyya Regional State.

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## United States Supports Functioning Government in Somalia

The United States continues to maintain informal contacts with entities in Somalia, according to a fact sheet issued September 20 by the Department of State.

Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto met with leaders from Somalia to underscore U.S. support for the establishment of a functioning government.

Following is the text of the fact sheet:

(begin fact sheet)

U.S. Department of State  
Fact Sheet  
[September 20, 2005]

U.S. Support for  
Functioning Government in Somalia

The United States is continuing to maintain informal contacts with entities in Somalia. Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto recently met with leaders from Somalia to underscore U.S. support for the es-

tablishment of a functioning government in Somalia and the need for consensus within the Somali Transitional Federal Institutions in order to begin the process of establishing governance.

the Speaker to continue his efforts towards finding a peaceful solution to current disagreements between Somali leaders.

During the UN General Assembly in New York City on September 16, 2005, Deputy Assistant Secretary Yamamoto met with Somali Transitional President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed. He again underscored the above U.S. support and urged President Yusuf to take immediate steps to reduce tension and engage in a constructive dialogue with other members of the Transitional Federal Institutions to find a peaceful solution to current disagreements.

(end fact sheet)



Deputy Assistant Secretary Yamamoto welcomed the Speaker of the Transitional Federal Assembly of Somalia, Shariff Hassan Sheikh Adan, to the State Department on September 14, 2005. He underscored this U.S. support and urged

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## American Defense School Honors Three African Soldiers

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Three top-ranking African soldiers, alumni of the National Defense University's

(NDU's) international fellowship program, were inducted into the NDU Hall of Fame September 15, capping off a weeklong symposium and reunion of fellow officers from more than 25 nations.

The three African soldiers honored

by the U.S. military were Nigerian Lieutenant General Martin Agwai, Army chief of staff; Kenyan Lieutenant General Daniel Opande, formerly commander of the United Nations Mission in Liberia; and Kenyan Brigadier General Wilson Boinett (retired), director general of the National Intelligence Service.

Finnish Major General Olli-Matti Multamaki, chief of the army, was also honored at the ceremony, which was held in the ornate amphitheater of historic Roosevelt Hall, the old Army War College building constructed on the grounds of Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington in 1903.

During the symposium, the foreign alumni were briefed on a wide range of topics, from the U.S. government's stabilization and reconstruction program in Iraq by its co-

ordinator, Ambassador Carlos Pascual, to an overview of U.S. policy toward Africa by Cliff Bernath, an official of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

Since 1984, foreign military officers have been invited to join upper-level U.S. officers and defense officials for a year's study at NDU's National War College. Officers from dozens of nations undergo a rigorous course of military/civilian study, which is complemented by visits with the families of U.S. counterparts and trips outside Washington to smaller American communities.

According to the Web site of the recently re-

named International Student Management Office (ISMO), a prime goal of the fellows program is "to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and civilian agencies for high-level policy, command and staff responsibilities," in part by helping them develop "first-hand knowledge of the social, political and economic factors that shape U.S. institutions."

Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, who presided over the induction ceremony, said that in the past 20 years, 522 fellows from 89 different nations have graduated from the NDU international fellows program, gaining valuable professional skills while

learning more about America and its people.

He said the idea behind the program is "to show how armed forces operate in a democratic society under duly elected civilian leadership. It extends and deepens the professional qualifications of military leaders of allied and friendly nations."

But knowledge is a two-way street, the admiral added, noting that American participants in the yearlong study program also benefit from the military and leadership experiences brought by foreign officers. "Most importantly," he

said, "it [ISMO] establishes enduring relationships, friendships, mutual trust and strong confidence between the participants of all nations in the program."

In that spirit, the central purpose of the International Fellows Hall of Fame, Giambastiani said, is to recognize outstanding

officers who "rise to senior leadership positions in their countries ... solely on merit and who contribute to national, regional and international peace and stability."

Finnish Major General Multamaki described the year spent at NDU as "education and not just training." By allowing the guest officers to study the way U.S. defense and military officials operate



**I to r: Lt. Gen. Michael Dunn, NDU pres.; Edmund Giambastiani, Jr., Air Force Col. John Charlton, ISMO director; Ambassador Johnnie Carson.**  
(photo : M. Chubski/NDU)



**I to r: Opande, Forces Commander, Lt. Gen. Martin Agwai, Nigeria; Maj. Gen. Olli-Matti Multamaki, Finland; Brig. Gen. Wilson Boinett., Kenya.**  
(photo: M.Chubski/NDU)

(Continued on page 10)

## U.S. Foundations Re-Launch Partnership for Higher Education in Africa

New York – Six U.S. foundations announced a \$200 million commitment over the next five years to strengthen higher education in seven African nations that will affect more than 300,000 university and college students.

"This is an outstanding display of global citizenship. We need to train teachers and build up research capacity; we need to strengthen open universities and distance learning programs; and we need to ensure that African institutions have access to the latest technologies, including improved online access to databases, libraries and journals," U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said September 16 at the Ford Foundation.

The announcement was held on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly 60th anniversary summit.

The Partnership for Higher Education in Africa was launched by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Ford, McArthur and Rockefeller Foundations in 2000. In those five years the foundations contributed more than \$150 million to build core capacity and support special initiatives at universities in Ghana, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda, accord-

ing to the Ford Foundation.

Kenya joined the partnership this year, and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Andrew W. Mellon Foundation also joined the partnership this year.

The new investment by the foundations includes more than \$5 million that will enable a consortium of African universities to obtain eight times the amount of Internet bandwidth than was available to them as recently as two years ago. Intelsat, a satellite operator, is providing the additional bandwidth to the consortium.

Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, said this partnership will help Africa to "give birth to its own leaders, to give birth to its own destiny."

Annan said this renewed commitment by the six foundations coincides with the international community's unprecedented attention to Africa.

"Women and poor people still

face too many obstacles on their path to higher education," he said. "The AIDS epidemic is having a terrible impact, taking the



lives of qualified instructors and researchers. And the brain drain continues to create situations in which the developing world's leading researchers win prizes for research conducted in the West, and not at home."

For information on U.S. activities at the United Nations, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).

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**Secretary General Kofi Annan speaks at the Ford Foundation**

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## Washington Area Offers African Immigrants a Helping Hand

By Susan Ellis  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Immigrants from African and other countries who come to the Washington area, which includes the states of Maryland and Virginia, find a welcoming hand in the numerous nonprofit organizations and several U.S. government agencies that offer advice on and assistance with their problems.

A recent panel discussion and town hall meeting held in Washington by the African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation and the American Friends Service Committee informed attendees about immigration law, policy and practice affecting African immigrants and refugees.

The panelists were asked to discuss various aspects of immigration law. Other topics included temporary protected status (TPS) updates for African and other countries and basic legal rights in the areas of education, employment, visas and illegal immigration.

Mary Wendeln, who is on sabbatical from 15 years' work in immigration services at the nongovernmental organization CASA of Maryland, says the information on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Web site "is the best information [anywhere] ... They have an explanation of every document, of every act, of every process that goes through immigration. It's very concrete and very well done.

"One of the challenges of immigration with the [current] Patriot Act is that there have been a lot of barriers set up because of [the ter-

rorism threat]," Wendeln says. She explains that some of the African countries may be on the list as potential threats and says it is a good idea for an immigrant from such a country who feels he or she is being targeted to go to a voluntary organization or a pro bono lawyer (see below) "and tell your story."

"There's a really good group in the area called the CAIR [Capital Area Immigrants' Rights] Coalition," an immigrant advocacy group that works with attorneys and community groups, she said.

"They have a lot of pro bono lawyers who are really fighting cases like this. Right now they're working on the Dream Act [S. 1545, The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act], which, if passed, would allow students who have been here for five years but don't have U.S. status to go to colleges with in-state tuition. Right now they have to pay out-of-country [higher] tuition." [Under the Dream Act, once such a student graduates from high school he or she must complete certain requirements, such as attending a two-year college or serving in the U.S. military, to gain permanent residence.]

### GOVERNMENTAL, PRIVATE HELP AVAILABLE FOR IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS

Wendeln advises those having problems with immigration -- for example, with getting papers to work -- to contact either the Civil Rights Division in the Justice Department or a nongovernmental organization such as Ayuda for legal assistance. [Ayuda -- "help" in Spanish -- is an organization that

advocates for the legal and human rights of low-income Latino and other immigrant communities in the Washington area.]

She also spoke about TPS, or temporary protected status, a temporary immigration status granted to certain persons from designated countries or parts of countries who are unable to return safely to their home countries because of ongoing conflict, environmental disaster or other extraordinary temporary conditions. She said there are some African countries, such as Burundi, that enjoy that status. "Liberia has had it since 1990; Somalia and Sudan, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras have it," she said.

She says, in working with the Salvadorans, "When it came time to renew [TPS] they really needed a lot of solidarity from their country people. So if you hear of anyone from Liberia, Somalia, Burundi or Sudan who is up for renewal, you might want to get your groups to support them." TPS can lead to receiving legal permanent status if there is an act of Congress, as happened with the Salvadorans, she said.

Sebastian Aloom, senior trial attorney with the Office of Special Counsel for Immigration-related Unfair Employment Practices, Civil Rights Division, at the U.S. Department of Justice, offered advice and two phone numbers for people to call with any immigration or job discrimination problems: his direct number, (202) 305-9349, and the toll-free 1-800-255-7688, a hotline staffed by people from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Washington time, dealing with employment-related hir-

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## Washington Area Offers African Immigrants . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

ing, firing and retaliation issues.

"If you have a question about your right to work and what you need to do to prove your work eligibility if you're a new American or an immigrant, or just confused and want some person to help you navigate the maze of immigration or civil rights laws, call either of those numbers," Aloom said. "If we can't provide an answer, we will try to research and call you back and give you an answer of where you should go and hopefully a name and number of the person you can talk to. We also will call your employers -- do telephone intervention. We will educate employers of immigrants to the arcane law of proving employment eligibility in the U.S., in particular the TPS programs."

"As long as you're a refugee or asylee [recipient of asylum] you have a right to work," Aloom said. "For the purposes of re-verifying your employment eligibility, you are no different from a U.S. citizen in terms of getting an unrestricted Social Security card, [a] driver's license ... In fact, a Social Security card is all you need to show because unless you're in a witness protection program, your identity doesn't change. So if you have a passport, even if it's expired and from a foreign country, it shows your picture and your name. My office will handle and will pursue complaints. You have the right to pick [which document] you show -- so long as the document you provide reasonably appears genuine and of the person who applies."

If people have questions about obtaining work status or interim

employment authorization documents (EADs), or about discrimination on the job or other matters dealing with immigration, Aloom advises calling the numbers he provided.

### HELP FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There are also agencies and non-governmental organizations dealing with illegal trafficking of persons and abuse of women and children, as well as legislation pending in Congress, notably the Kennedy-McCain bill, aimed at making life easier for immigrants.

In addition, there are nonprofit groups that provide assistance and shelter for women and children being abused by employers or spouses. Speakers cited the Violence Against Women (VAWA) Act, which provides that spouses of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents who are victims of abuse can file independently for immigration status without fear of being deported or losing custody of children. The Tahirih Justice Center will help in this situation and find a pro bono attorney. "Even if they [immigrants] are completely undocumented, they are eligible to get deferred status, which means they can stay in the U.S. indefinitely for the time being and work," a Tahirih representative said.

The T visa is for people who are victims of trafficking, a panelist said, adding that the news media have highlighted victims who are brought to the United States against their will for prostitution or sexual exploitation and the like. But it also includes "people brought here either against their

will or under false pretenses ... including those who are brought here to be a nanny or house servant, who are then not paid, who are abused or fall under [other abusive] circumstances," the panelist added.

Two organizations that rescue victims in these cases are Break the Chain and CASA of Maryland.

"Both of these organizations have literally gone at night and picked up people and taken them away -- and been able to get great press coverage," a panelist said. "Although it isn't going to solve the problem, a lot of the press work that can be done between here and other countries is also educating people about what is going on. But the thing is really to get the women into groups so that they will come forth."

Questions concerning the issues discussed in this article may be addressed to the American Friends Service Committee, 2211 14th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20056-3008, as well as to the phone numbers at the Justice Department mentioned in the article, to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and to the various nonprofit agencies named. The Internet addresses contain numerous links to relevant sites, such as a pro bono referral program listing attorneys who will handle cases for immigrants and refugees who lack the financial means to hire their own attorneys, programs and resources ranging in subject from employment rights to social services, and a health hotline with interpreter services. ♦



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## President Calls for Prayer, Promises Post-Hurricane Restoration

President Bush marked a day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Hurricane Katrina and urged Americans to "the demanding work of revival."

faced lives of struggle, not least on account of generations of segregation and discrimination. He called on Americans to "clear away the legacy of inequality" and

A transcript of the Strock briefing (<http://www.defenselink.mil/transcripts/2005/tr20050915-3905.html>) is available on the Defense Department Web site.

In remarks delivered September 16 at the Washington National Cathedral on a National Day of Prayer and Remembrance, the president cited prayer as a way to seek understanding of "the mystery of undeserved suffering." No one, he said, "is ever stranded beyond God's care."

In the wake of Katrina's devastation of New Orleans and much of the Gulf Coast, Bush lauded the inspirational acts of courage and goodness performed by ordinary Americans filled with a spirit "that faces the worst and chooses to hope."

The president declared the nation "mindful of the work ahead."

Among its duties, he said, is restoration of broken communities and disrupted lives. These, he said, are "an opportunity to serve our fellow Americans, as they would do for us."

The greatest hardship, Bush said, fell upon citizens who already

pledged to "renew our promise as a land of equality and decency."

For more information on the storm and its aftermath, see Hurricane Katrina ([http://usinfo.state.gov/global\\_issues/hurricane\\_katrina.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/global_issues/hurricane_katrina.html)).



**President George W. Bush bows his head in prayer during the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., Friday, Sept. 16, 2005. Also pictured are Laura Bush, Lynne Cheney, Vice President Cheney, Secretary Rice, and Secretary Rumsfeld. White House photo by Eric Draper**

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



## U.S. Aid Agency, Coca-Cola to Work on Clean-Water Projects

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Coca-Cola Company have formed a partnership to support a wide range of water-related projects in developing countries.

In a September 15 news release, USAID said that the partners will work with local communities to improve access to clean water and sanitation and find long-lasting solutions to other water problems.

In the first year the partnership can fund projects for the total of \$3.5 million, the agency said.

For additional information, see Sustainable Development ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/sustainable\\_development.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/sustainable_development.html)).

Following is the text of the news release:

(begin text)

USAID  
Press Release

USAID and Coca-Cola Announce  
Global Watershed Partnership  
Agreement  
September 15, 2005



WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Coca-Cola Company announced the "Global Community -- Watershed Partnerships Program." This public-private collaboration will support a wide variety of water-related programs in developing countries around the world.

In an effort to provide more access to clean water and to protect our environment, USAID and Coca-Cola are working together with the Global Environment and Technology Foundation to reduce the impacts of water-related problems in priority countries. By combining local experience, community involvement, technical knowledge and funding, the partners will work to find positive and long-lasting solutions to local water problems.

"Water projects help improve access to safe and adequate water supply and sanitation, improve irrigation technology, enhance natural environments, and develop better institutional capacity for water resources management," stated USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. "When we work together with our partners in the private

sector, this important work can benefit even more people in developing nations."

The Global Community Watershed Partnerships Program capitalizes on the strengths and experience of each partner institution in the collaborative development and implementation of water projects. In Mali, for example, the new alliance will support community water supply and sanitation as well as small-scale agriculture activities using recycled wastewater from a local Coca-Cola bottling plant. In Bolivia, the upper watershed near a Coca-Cola facility will be protected through greater community and private sector involvement.

"At the Coca-Cola Company we are transforming the way that we think about water," said Jeff Seabright, Coca-Cola's Vice President for Water and Environment. "It is in the long-term interests for our business to be good stewards of our most critical ingredient, water. Along with the communities where we operate, we have a shared interest in protecting water resources and enabling greater access to water and sanitation. To do this, we are collaborating



A little boy holds a water bottle filled with clean water provided by the Sri Lankan Red Cross Society.

(Continued on page 10)

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## 2007 Diversity Visa Lottery Registration to Begin October 5

The U.S. Department of State announced that registration for the 2007 Diversity Visa Lottery will be held October 5 to December 4.

The program, designed to bring greater racial and ethnic diversity to the United States, offers permanent residency visas to citizens of nations that have a traditionally low level of immigration to the United States. Persons seeking to enter the lottery program must register online through the design-

nated Web site ([www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) (<http://www.dvlottery.state.gov/>)) during the registration period. Registration is free of charge.

The State Department will notify winning entrants by mail. The department said it plans to issue 50,000 permanent residency visas.

Additional information on the Diversity Visa Immigrant Program

([http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types\\_1322.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/immigrants/types/types_1322.html)) is available on the State Department Web site. Lists of countries by region whose natives qualify for the 2007 diversity visa program are included in the media note below.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Aid Agency, Coca-Cola to Work . . .

*(Continued from page 9)*

closely with our bottling partners, our supply chain partners, and other stakeholders to address the water challenges and opportunities that we have in nearly 1,000 of our operation sites around the world. Today's agreement with USAID is another important step in this process."

The Community-Watershed Partnerships program is a multi year effort with over \$3.5 million of combined resources in the first year. The alliance will work to achieve a variety of goals, including increasing access to safe water supply, promoting sanitation and hygiene; and protecting and conserving local water resources.

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## American Defense School Honors . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

within a democratic setting, which at times can be confusing and frustrating, he said, "the [NDU] faculty gave us a toolbox for the future."

At the same time, he pointed out, the contacts and friendships made with the other foreign fellows, and with the American fellows, "made our life and work a lot easier."

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Rice Challenges United Nations to Seize Opportunity to Reform

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- Urging the United Nations General Assembly to "reform this great institution to meet the challenges of a new era," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice outlined priorities for the world organization including fighting terrorism, helping fledgling democracies, and stopping nuclear proliferation.

In her first participation in the General Assembly as secretary of state September 17, Rice said, "the time to reform the United Nations is now. And we must seize this opportunity together."

"The United States believes in the United Nations. And we have ambitious hopes for its future," the secretary said.

For the United Nations to become an "engine of change in the 21st century, it must now change itself," Rice said. A "lasting revolution of reform" must include establishing a new Peace-Building Commission and a Human Rights Council, expanding the Security Council, and tightening management structures, she added.

Rice said that the Security Council must be able to address "great challenges like terrorism, nuclear proliferation, especially when it faces real threats and when countries like Iran threaten the effectiveness of the nuclear non-proliferation regime."

"When diplomacy has been exhausted the Security Council must become involved," she said.

Iran was the only country the secretary singled out for criticism in her remarks.

"After agreeing to negotiate with Europe, Iran has unilaterally walked away from the talks and restarted its nuclear pro-



**US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice addresses the 60th session of the General Assembly on September 17.**

grams. Iran should return to the negotiations with EU-3 -- and abandon forever its plans for a nuclear weapons capability," Rice said.

Saying "it is time for every member of the United Nations to outlaw international terrorism," Rice called on nations to complete the comprehensive convention on terrorism.

"International institutions are only as strong and effective and rele-

vant as their members choose to make them. The United Nations is no different," the secretary said.

The traditional opening debate of the 60th General Assembly session began less than 24 hours after world leaders attending a three-day summit adopted a 40-page document setting plans and goals for the United Nations -- one that includes the goals Rice outlined in her 10-minute speech. It will be up to the General Assembly to act upon most of the breakthrough proposals made by the summit. Some of those actions must be completed in the next three months.

Rice was preceded at the podium by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who laid out a seven-point package that started with an "accountability pact" calling on members to live up to summit requirements and hold each other accountable for doing so.

Annan, who this year has faced a series of scandals in U.N. operations from sexual abuse in peace-keeping operations to charges of kick-backs in the Oil-for-Food Program, said, "I intend to follow through on every action asked of me."

The secretary general said he would immediately start management reforms to make the secretariat more efficient, more effective, and more accountable. He then pressed the 191 member states to move forward on human rights issues, the terrorism convention, the Peace-Building Commission, Security Council reform, and commitments on development.

*(Continued on page 20)*



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## World Summit Concludes with Declaration of U.N. Goals

By Judy Aita  
Washington File Staff Writer

United Nations -- Concluding their 2005 World Summit September 16, representatives of the United Nations' 191 member states overwhelmingly adopted a hard-fought compromise on goals and strategies for the world organization in the years to come.

Over the course of the three-day meetings, participants heard President Bush and more than 150 other leaders outline their visions for the future of the United Nations and how to meet the goals of ending poverty; protecting the environment; defeating HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB; building peace; promoting democracy, and fighting terrorism. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Sep/13-285851.html>).)

In the document, which was adopted by consensus, the leaders reaffirmed their "faith in the United Nations" and their commitment to "the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law."

The 40-page final document, weaker than originally drafted and faulted for ignoring disarmament and nonproliferation issues, outlines broad goals, many of which -- especially actions on reforms of the United Nations itself -- will need to be followed up by the General Assembly during its 60th session.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said the United States was pleased to join the consensus and "pleased the member states have agreed to denounce terrorism in all its forms, advance the cause of develop-

ment, reform the management of the U.N., establish a Peacebuilding Commission, and create a Human Rights Council."

Bolton said "the outcome document represents an important step in a long process of U.N. reform. We cannot allow the reform effort to be derailed or run out of steam."

### CONDEMNING TERRORISM, GENOCIDE

The document was praised widely for strongly condemning terrorism. It is the first clear, unqualified U.N. condemnation of terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes as it constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security."

Nations also agreed to support a strategy to fight terrorism in a way that makes the international community stronger and terrorists weaker and to complete a comprehensive convention on terrorism by the end of the year.

It contains a clear and unambiguous acceptance by U.N. members of the collective international responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the leaders that in accepting the document "you will be pledged to act if another Rwanda looms."

### A STEP FORWARD

U.S. Under Secretary of State R. Nicholas Burns said it is "a good document" and "a step forward" toward reforming the United Nations and making it stronger and more effective.

"What you have is a 'big tent' agreement where the views of countries all over the world were represented and that is the best way to negotiate among 191



2005 World Summit

countries," Burns said after negotiations reached agreement just before the start of the summit September 13.

Strong management reforms requested by the secretary-general and the United States were replaced by generalities and left to the upcoming General Assembly to flesh out.

The centerpiece of the U.S. effort in drafting and negotiating the summit document was "strengthening the United Nations, making it a more effective institution and allowing the United States to participate in the U.N. in a very vigorous way," Burns said.

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## Rice, Clinton Discuss Poverty, Other Global Problems

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice joined former President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and King Abdullah II of Jordan in a September 15 panel discussion on global issues ranging from climate change to religious conflict.

The meeting, held in conjunction with the United Nations 60th anniversary summit, marked the opening of the Clinton Global Initiative, a program launched by the former president to bring together activists, world leaders, business executives and others to seek solutions to global problems, the Clinton Foundation said in a statement.

Commitments announced during the meeting included that of Mohamed Ibrahim, former chief executive officer of Cel-Tel Africa, who unveiled the African Enterprise Private Investment Fund with an initial contribution of \$100 million.

For additional information on events surrounding the United Nations meetings, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).

Following is the text of the Clinton Foundation statement:

(begin text)

King Abdullah II [of Jordan]  
Prime Minister Blair [Tony Blair of the United Kingdom]  
and Secretary of State Rice [U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza

Rice]  
Take Part in the CGI's Inaugural Opening Session Featuring the Unveiling of 4 Major Commitments Worth Over \$200 Million

**September 15, 2005  
New York, NY**

President William J. Clinton opened the Clinton Global Initiative [CGI], discussing the importance



**Former U.S. president Bill Clinton (L) , King Abdullah bin Al-Hussein of Jordan (2nd L), British Prime Minister Tony Blair (2nd R), and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the Clinton Global Initiative forum in New York,**

of the conference and introducing the topics of the event: poverty, religious strife, climate change, and governance. President Clinton then moderated the Opening Plenary Session panel, "Perspectives on the Global Challenges of Our Time."

The panel was comprised of His Majesty Abdullah II, King of the Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; The Right Honorable Tony Blair, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; and The Honorable Condoleezza Rice, U.S. Secretary of State.

"I am thrilled to welcome this group of incredible leaders from all walks of life, who have come together to discuss common problems and commit to take action," said President Clinton. "At this conference there are many people from seemingly divergent, even oppositional viewpoints in the same room. But I believe there is more that unites us than separates us and the issues we're going to

discuss are too big for government or business or Republicans or Democrats or any single religious group to solve alone. We've all come here today with a common purpose: to find real solutions -- and to commit to do our part on four issues that plague modern society.

Now is a special moment for the issues we will discuss -- Poverty, Climate Change, Governance and Religion.

I don't claim for a second that the Clinton Global Initiative will solve all of these extraordinarily tough questions, but getting all of these people in one place to focus on these critical problems with a commitment to what each of us can really do to change them is an important first step. And this week it is a step that hundreds of us -- activists, Presidents, and CEOs from every political party and religious affiliation -- are taking together."

Focused on results, each participant at CGI is asked to commit to

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## Rice, Clinton Discuss Poverty, . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

take a specific action in one of the four areas covered at the conference. As CGI opens, more than 50 commitments have already been made, totaling more than \$300 million. This afternoon, President Clinton announced the first four of these commitments:

The Hunter Foundation announced it will partner with the William J. Clinton Foundation through a commitment of \$100 million over a ten-year timeframe, to support holistic approaches for development; World Vision Inc. and the Global Business Coalition announced the creation of Impact! HIV/AIDS, which will spend tens of millions of dollars in the next five years to help fight the disease through micro-enterprise development for women and caring for orphans and vulnerable children. Former CEO [chief executive officer] of Cel-Tel Africa, Mohamed Ibrahim unveiled the establishment the African Enterprise Private Investment Fund with an initial contribution of \$100 million. The Fund is directed at small and medium enterprises whose business creates value with limited access to capital. The Clinton Global Initiative outlined its commitment for a Carbon Neutral Clinton Global Initiative to help mitigate climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon financing renewable energy projects that replace fossil-fuel energy sources.

### About the Clinton Global Initiative

The Clinton Global Initiative ([www.clintonglobalinitiative.org](http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org)) brings together a diverse group of current and former heads of state, business leaders, noteworthy academicians, and key NGO

[nongovernmental organization] representatives to participate in a series of interactive workshops. Participants will focus on methods of reducing poverty; using religion as a force for reconciliation and conflict resolution; implementing new business strategies and technologies to combat climate change; and strengthening governance. By the conclusion of the conference each participant will have made a specific commitment to take action in the coming year in one of the areas discussed. The Clinton Global Initiative is a non-partisan and nonprofit organization.

### More About the Commitments

Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, a Nubian from Sudan, whose most recent project, Cel-Tel, developed mobile communication in 13 sub-Saharan African countries, committed \$100 million to create the African Private Enterprise Fund. The Fund acknowledges that African development and its success will ultimately be achieved through the flow of investment into the Continent. Investment creates jobs, wealth and sustained prosperity.

World Vision and the Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS announced that they would work together to create Impact! HIV/AIDS. Impact! HIV/AIDS will engage corporations in the fight against HIV/AIDS specifically in the areas of: Protecting Women from HIV/AIDS through Micro-enterprise Development and Community-Based Care for Orphans and Vulnerable Children. It will marry the grassroots experience and successes of World Vision with the Global Business Coalition's expertise in engaging the corporate community in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The Clinton-Hunter Development Initiative is a collaborative project of the William J. Clinton Foundation and The Hunter Foundation, two entities with a proven commitment to sustainable development. With a generous commitment of \$100 million during a ten-year timeframe, hoping to leverage further assets -- from governments, corporations, and philanthropies -- in the creation of a successful, evolving model for sustainable development capable of global adoption and replicable. The Initiative will serve as a catalyst for spurring community-level development and encouraging the creation of an enabling environment for pro-development policies at regional and national levels.

President Clinton announced a commitment of the Carbon Neutral Global Initiative. Following the successful practices of the Democratic and Republican National Conventions and the 2002 Salt Lake City Olympic Games, through the Carbon Neutral Clinton Global Initiative, CGI will contribute to mitigation of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through carbon financing renewable energy projects that replace fossil-fuel energy sources. The project will also assist to alleviate poverty, as it was chosen based on benefits of rural electrification in Nigeria and in Native American land within the U.S. It will save an estimated 4,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



## U.S. Congress Cites Growing World Problem of "Street Children"

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – More than 100 million children worldwide are living hand-to-mouth, bereft of family and homes, and are "particularly vulnerable to abuse" in countries as wide-ranging as Uganda, Zimbabwe, Brazil and the Philippines, Representative Christopher Smith, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Africa Subcommittee, said September 13.

Smith, a Republican from New Jersey, told fellow lawmakers at a hearing conducted by the subcommittee, "This is a plague that has reached epidemic proportions because it is too often left ignored."

And he warned: "As the number of street children worldwide grows each year, the stability of their respective governments is jeopardized. This is not just a humanitarian crisis, it is a security crisis as well."

David Denehy, director of strategic planning and external affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, told the panel his agency's "Country Reports" survey "suggests that children end up on the streets for a variety of reasons, including conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS. Some are exploited in prostitution or are subjected to other forms of human trafficking, and others face abuse by security forces and citizens."

For example, he said, between 32,000 and 52,000 children known as "night commuters" travel from war-torn areas of Uganda "each night to urban centers to avoid abduction by the

Lord's Resistance Army," a rebel movement that has battled the central government for more than 10 years.

Next door in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Denehy said, "between 25,000 and 50,000 child refugees, war orphans and other children, widely perceived to be street thugs, are accused of



**Aminata, an 11-year-old child who was taken to Gabon and later found her way to a rescue center in Togo, was clearly traumatized by her ordeal. Aminata was trafficked to a woman named Fatima, who took her and other children to Libreville, first by car, then boat. In Gabon, she sold cakes on the street for an employer who beat her.**

witchcraft or sorcery. They live on the streets throughout the country, and engage in petty crime, begging and/or prostitution."

In Angola's capital, Luanda, he said, the State Department estimates "approximately 1,500 street children shine shoes, wash cars, carry water, beg, prostitute and often resort to petty crime to sur-

vive."

The good news is that at a time when Americans are faced with spending hundreds of billions of dollars to recover from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has dedicated funds to work on the growing problem of street children worldwide, says Larry Feinberg, manager of USAID's Displaced Children and Orphans Fund (DCOF).

He told the Africa Subcommittee that DCOF now provides financial and technical support for street children programs in more than 19 countries. "We have programmed more than \$160 million since the fund's inception in 1989," he said, and in 2005, DCOF is providing \$14 million.

Feinberg said successful programs aimed at protecting and providing housing and care for street children are operating in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Liberia, Indonesia, Ukraine, Sri Lanka and Zambia. He added that DCOF also has "supported excellent and innovative street children's programs in the Philippines and in Thailand."

In Brazil, he told lawmakers, DCOF "recently completed a 10-year investment in a major street children's program called POM-MAR [Prevenção Orientada aos Meninos e Meninas em Risco/Prevention Oriented to At-Risk Youth] in the impoverished northeast sector of the country. That program is now being followed up with a highly innovative Youth Employability Strengthening project."

*(Continued on page 16)*

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## U.S. Congress Cites Growing World Problem . . .

(Continued from page 15)

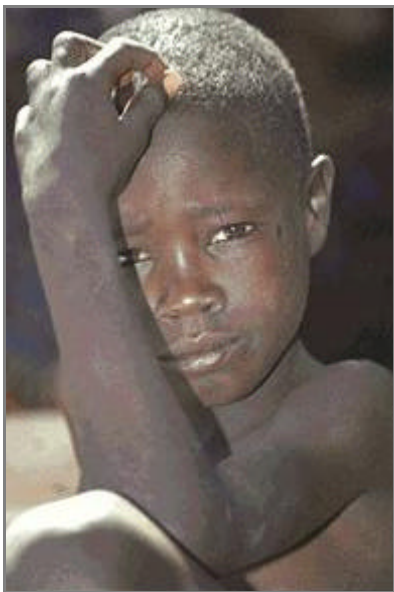
Turning back to Africa, Feinberg, a former Peace Corps volunteer, said, "One of the most heinous and objectionable phenomena that I have encountered [and USAID is addressing] is the widening practice in Angola and the two Congos of accusing children of witchcraft and then subjecting them to cruel 'exorcisms' that are tantamount to torture."

Britain's Lord David Alton of Liverpool, member of the House of Lords and long-time champion of children's rights worldwide, also spoke before the House panel on the global plight of street children.

He noted that the "Jubilee Campaign," established more than 10 years ago to lobby for children's rights, began after Brazilian police fired on a group of street children in the slums of Rio de Janeiro. But the organization also operates programs in other countries, such as India, where as many as 11 million children may be living on the streets.

For Africa, Alton gave the follow-

ing figures for street children: Kenya, 250,000; Ethiopia, 150,000; Zimbabwe, 12,000. And he said that many street children have been forced to serve as child soldiers, suffering death or terrible wounds. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), he said, the United Nations



estimates that 30,000 children under the age of 12 are under arms, making up 10 percent of the armed groups in the region.

At the same time, Alton said, "20,000 children are believed to live on the streets in the DRC capital, Kinshasa."

Father Shay Cullen, a Catholic missionary priest from Ireland who has worked on development issues for more than 30 years, also testi-

fied before the House panel about his work protecting children and campaigning for human rights. He was joined by Teresa Cristina Belchior dos Santos, who is working with the nongovernmental organization (NGO) Viva Network to help young people living on the streets in the Brazilian state of Rio de Janeiro.

Smith acknowledged that "local governments often have limited programs and resources to address the special needs of street children." However, he added, "developed democracies can assist, certainly with direct material assistance, but perhaps most of all through institution building."

The lawmaker promised: "USAID and our NGO communities will discuss what they are doing and what more can be done" to aid street children worldwide.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

## Laura Bush Looks Toward "Generation Free from HIV/AIDS"

Africa's progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS "is best measured in hope," U.S. first lady Laura Bush told African first ladies September 15.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS, meeting at Rockefeller University in New York City, Mrs. Bush said that while an HIV-positive diagnosis was viewed as a death sentence only a few years ago, today, people who are HIV-positive can hope to watch their children grow up, to achieve their own goals and dreams and to "see a generation free from HIV/AIDS, so that no one has to suffer and so that no child is made an orphan by AIDS."

While HIV/AIDS affects tens of millions of lives in nations around the world, the first lady said, more than 60 percent of the people living with AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa.

To confront this problem, first ladies from throughout Africa came together in Geneva in July 2002 to found the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS. Following a three-day summit meeting, they adopted an ambitious plan of action, pledging to make concrete contributions to the fight against HIV/AIDS through advocacy, networking and mobilization of resources. They committed themselves to focus particularly on vulnerable groups, including women, children and youth.

Mrs. Bush said she was "encouraged" by the African first ladies' strategy of appealing to the consciences of adults so that the adults will act to protect children from contracting AIDS. She cited the similar goal of her own initia-

tive in the United States, called Helping America's Youth.

Welcoming the first ladies to the United States, Mrs. Bush recalled her "wonderful visit" to Rwanda, Tanzania and South Africa in July and described her visits to projects that are helping to combat HIV/AIDS. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Jul/13-446867.html>).

Saying that "education, especially for girls, is an important part of our campaign to increase understanding of how HIV can be prevented and how it can be treated," Mrs. Bush cited President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which provides more than \$120 million to support critical services, including access to education, for orphans and vulnerable children.

She also reminded the first ladies of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion plan announced in 2003 to fight AIDS in some of the most afflicted countries, including many in Africa. The plan, she said, supports care and treatment for people affected by HIV and helps to prevent further transmission of the disease. (See White Housefact

sheet (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2004/Mar/16-542094.html>) on plan.)

"By promoting education, empowering women, and respecting the traditions and the teachings of local cultures," the first lady told her



**Laura Bush addresses the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS in New York Thursday, Sept. 15, 2005.**

African counterparts, "we can realize the goals of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS: no new infections among youth."

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*



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## U.S. Pledges Additional \$1.2 Billion to Combat Malaria in Africa

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

New York — First lady Laura Bush joined representatives of three African nations and the head of the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) September 14 in signing an agreement that will increase U.S. funding to reduce the burden of malaria in Africa by \$1.2 billion over five years.

The event took place on the sidelines of the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The agreement will have a "dramatic effect" on the health of people in Africa, Bush said.

Malaria is "one of the greatest threats to human health and economic challenges on earth," according to USAID documents. Each year, the disease infects 300-500 million people, the majority of them children. The annual global economic loss attributed to the disease is an estimated \$12 billion.

The agreement commits \$30 million in the fiscal year beginning October 1 to launch the program in Angola, Tanzania and Uganda.

The commitment will increase to \$135 million in fiscal year 2007, and grow to \$500 million in fiscal year 2010, eventually reaching 15 countries and 175 million people.

Malaria, "a highly preventable and treatable disease," now kills 1.2 billion people annually, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios said at a press briefing before the signing.

The commitment -- which follows a pledge made by President Bush June 30 to increase funding for

malaria prevention and treatment -- will fund three major efforts:

- Assist African pharmaceutical companies to make and distribute an herb-based drug that has proven effective against strains resistant to current drugs.
- Distribute insecticide-treated bed nets.
- Spray households, especially those with young children and pregnant women, to repel malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

The U.S. Congress "strongly" supports the anti-malaria program, Natsios said.

This new commitment will complement an existing network-based system in the targeted countries of national ministries of health, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private companies, Natsios said. According to USAID, due to the accelerated efforts to combat malaria, by the end of 2006, Angola, Tanzania and Uganda will likely be the first three countries in Africa to achieve the Abuja prevention target -- 60 percent coverage of the population with preventative measures.

Partners in the agreement include the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), headed by former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman; the American Red Cross; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and Exxon-Mobile Corporation. Veneman and representatives of other donor organizations attended the agreement signing.

The World Bank and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, are other partners in the effort, according to USAID, and other private sector partners are

being sought.

Achieving the target coverage rates in 35 countries will require at least \$1.5 billion a year from various donors, Natsios said.

USAID currently provides aid for malaria control in Africa to Angola, Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozam-



bique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

USAID is spending \$89 million in fiscal year 2005 to battle malaria.

The Global Fund is supporting anti-malarial programs in 84 countries. The United States is the largest single donor to the Global Fund.

For information on U.S. activities at the United Nations, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)). ♦

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## Fighting Disease Supports World Development, Bush Says

The serious burden of disease in poor countries of the world is an obstacle to their development, President Bush told the U.N. General Assembly September 14.

In a speech that ranged from the global response to Hurricane Katrina to terrorism, President Bush also highlighted U.S. efforts to combat disease in the developing world.

With the five-year, \$15 billion AIDS emergency relief plan, Bush said the United States is well on the way to achieving its goal of providing HIV/AIDS treatment for almost 2 million people in Africa by 2008. (See HIV/AIDS ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)).)

The United States is also increasing its commitment to combat malaria, another disease that both causes suffering to millions each year and inhibits development and national advancement.

Bush said the United States will also join other nations in an International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza to wage a strong response to fears that the bird flu epidemic in Asia could evolve into a worldwide human flu pandemic.

An excerpt of the president's speech follows:

(begin excerpt)

United Nations Headquarters  
New York, New York  
9:48 A.M. EDT

Tying aid to reform is essential to eliminating poverty, but our work

doesn't end there. For many countries, AIDS, malaria, and other diseases are both humanitarian tragedies and significant obstacles to development. We must give poor countries access to the emergency lifesaving drugs they need to fight these infectious epidemics. Through our bilateral programs and the Global Fund, the United States will continue to lead the world in providing the resources to defeat the plague of HIV-AIDS.

Today America is working with local authorities and organizations in the largest initiative in history to combat a specific disease. Across Africa, we're helping local health officials expand AIDS testing facilities, train and support doctors and nurses and counselors, and upgrade clinics and hospitals. Working with our African partners, we have now delivered lifesaving treatment to more than 230,000 people in sub-Sahara Africa. We are ahead of schedule to meet an important objective: providing HIV-AIDS treatment for nearly two million adults and children in Africa. At the G-8 Summit at Gleneagles, Scotland, we set a clear goal: an AIDS-free generation in Africa. And I challenge every member of the United Nations to take concrete steps to achieve that goal.

We're also working to fight malaria. This preventable disease kills more than a million people around the world every year -- and leaves poverty and grief in every land it touches. The United States has set a goal of cutting the malaria death rate in half in at least 15 highly endemic African countries. To achieve that goal, we've pledged to increase our funding for

malaria treatment and prevention by more than \$1.2 billion over the next five years. We invite other nations to join us in this effort by committing specific aid to the dozens of other African nations in need of it. Together we can fight malaria and save hundreds of thousands of lives, and bring new hope to countries that have been devastated by this terrible disease.

As we strengthen our commitments to fighting malaria and AIDS, we must also remain on the offensive against new threats to public health such as the Avian Influenza. If left unchallenged, this virus could become the first pandemic of the 21st century. We must not allow that to happen. Today I am announcing a new International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza. The Partnership requires countries that face an outbreak to immediately share information and provide samples to the World Health Organization. By requiring transparency, we can respond more rapidly to dangerous outbreaks and stop them on time. Many nations have already joined this partnership; we invite all nations to participate. It's essential we work together, and as we do so, we will fulfill a moral duty to protect our citizens, and heal the sick, and comfort the afflicted.

(end excerpt)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Rice Challenges United Nations . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

Nations must also "urgently begin to remedy our distressing failures on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament," he said.

"We face growing risks of proliferation and catastrophic terrorism, and the stakes are too high to continue down a dangerous path of diplomatic brinkmanship. Let's instead work together to strengthen all three pillars of the regime -- nonproliferation, disarmament, and peaceful uses," Annan said.

The World Summit goals are "a hard-won revolution in international affairs and a signal of hope for the weakest in our world," the secretary-general said.

"So let us get to work, confident and determined," he said. "If we do what we have promised this week, we will help save millions of lives and give hope to billions of people. That would be a fitting achievement to mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations."

For more information, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## World Summit Concludes with Declaration . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

"This is not the end of the reform effort. It really is the beginning of a permanent reform effort that must be under way here at the United Nations," he said. "We believe in the United Nations. We want the U.N. to be strengthened. We want the U.N. to be effective around the world."

The result will be "a greatly strengthened United Nations" that has a strong code of ethics, enhanced whistleblower protection, more extensive financial disclosure for U.N. officials and stronger internal oversight, Burns said. Another reform will be a review of all programs older than five years, the under secretary said.

### **PEACEBUILDING, HUMAN RIGHTS**

The document also contains initiatives for a Peacebuilding Commission to help nations emerging from conflict and a new human rights body called the Human Rights Council.

It calls for a Human Rights Council by the end of the year but leaves all the details -- rules, by-laws and membership -- to be determined later by the General Assembly. It also does not mention the abolition of the Human Rights Commission.

The council, Burns said, has to have "a democratic cast which is so important to us because we can no longer support the Human Rights Commission in Geneva."

The United States was an "enthusiastic supporter" of the

Peacebuilding Commission, which will be created as a result of the document. It will "add a new dimension to United Nations efforts," he said.

Burns said the development portion of the document is "a more holistic approach" to development that takes into account aid from donor nations, lowering trade barriers, and good governance and fighting corruption in developing countries as called for in the so-called Monterrey consensus. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Sep/16-778624.html>).)

For information on U.S. activities at the United Nations, see The United Nations at 60 ([http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international\\_security/UNGA\\_2005.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/UNGA_2005.html)). ♦